



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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SECRETARY

**For Immediate Release**

June 23, 2009

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### **Ouachita Wastewater Company and Owner Sentenced for Environmental Crimes**

BATON ROUGE – American Water and Waste Water Management, Inc., was sentenced to pay a criminal fine of \$55,000, plus court costs and an additional \$20,000 in costs of investigation and environmental projects. The \$20,000 was ordered by the court to the following: \$5,000 to Southeast Environmental Enforcement Network; \$5,000 to the District Attorney's office; \$5,000 to DEQ; and \$5,000 to the Louisiana Environmental Action Network.

The company was placed on probation for five years by the court. Marios Papadopoulos, 45, owner of American Water and Waste Water Management, Inc., was also sentenced to 24 months probation after pleading no contest on charges of violating the Louisiana Clean Water Act.

On May 26, 2009, Papadopoulos entered a no contest plea to two misdemeanor violations, and the company pled guilty to one felony count of violating its Clean Water Act permit and one felony count of submitting a false statement concerning its sewer plant.

In April 2008, arrests were made after DEQ-CID discovered Papadopoulos failed to report discharges from one of his facilities from 2005-2007, and discharges from two other facilities during that time exceeded his permitted limits.

“It is unfortunate that some business owners choose to conduct operations that skirt the law at the expense of human health and the environment. Such conduct will not be tolerated under this administration,” said Mike Daniels, Criminal Enforcement Counsel with the Criminal Investigation Division. “Illegal dumping and records falsification are serious matters and we will continue to work diligently to bring violators to justice.”

The case was handled by DEQ-CID and by the Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office by Assistant District Attorney Fred McGaha.

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